Strengthening of the Press Council of India

*317. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI; Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to strengthen the Press Council of India to make it more effective, through legislation or otherwise; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Science and Technology Council

*318. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an autonomous Science and Technology Council for ensuring purchase limport of latesfhighgrade technology is being set up and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) the type and nature of representation likely to be given on this Council and the manner in which it is likely to operate in practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

'Indian capital in swiss banks, eftc.

319. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR; SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) the estimated amount of unaccounted Indian Capital deposited in the Swiss Banks and held in other foreign holdings abroad at present;

(b) the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) whether there has been any attempt to probe the matter and if so, the findings thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Government has been aware of the clandestine deposits in foreign banks by unscrupulous elements, Banks accepting such deposits have their law of secrecy and do not disclose the details even if requested. Therefore, it is not possible to estimate the unaccounted Indian capital abroad.

The Enforcement Directorate of the Government of India is engaged in various operations to detect transfers of funds out of India in violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. Raids and prosecution of persons violating FERA have been stepped up.

Levying of a tax on Inter-State consign' ment of goods

*320. SHRI VTTHAL BHAI MOTTRAM PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal to levy a tax on the interstate consignment of goods;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a Committee of Chief Ministers has recently arrived at a consensus in respect of levying of a tax on consignment goods; and

(c) if so, by when Government propose to introduce a Legislation to levy a consignment tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOIARI); (a) and. (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On some of the important issues involved the views of the States have been received and are being examined.

Rehabilitation of sick industrial units

f2524. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special meeting of the newly constituted Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruc-. tion was convened in Bombay during the 2nd week of February, 1987 to chalk out rehabilitation packages for sick units of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government also propose to rehabilitate the sick industrial units by according the highest priority; and

(c) if so, what is reaction of the Central Government thereto and decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Government and the RBI have been emphasising on banks and financial institutions for taking effective action for the rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units by preparation of suitable rehabilitation packages. Government have also set up a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in terms of the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act> 1986- no formal meeting of the BIFR was held in Bombay in the second week of Feb., 1987. However, the Chairman of the Board held discussions with officers of the RBI, financial institutions and banks with regard to the modalities of operation of the sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The BIFR would be taking decisions in terms of this Act, on the merits of each case, after it becomes operational.

tPreviously Unstarred Question 1368 transferred from the 9th March, 1987.

Public sector undertakings without Chairmen and Managing Directors

t2525. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) what are the names of Public Sector Undertakings which are without Chair men or Managing Directors as on the 31st January, 1987;

(b) the time since when these posts have not been filled up; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) affd (b) As per available information, the names of the Central public, enterprises which are without full-time Chief Executives as on 31. 1. 87 are given in enclosed the Statement *(See* below)

(c) As per established procedure, the selections for full-time Board level posts including Chief Executives in Central public enterprises are made by the Public. Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) and the recommendations of the PESB are processed by the administrative Ministries! Departments concerned. and appointments are made only with the approval of the Ace. Appointments to these posts can be made only after getting vigilance clearance, verification of charterer and antecedents of individuals prior to their appointment and completing other formalities. In some, cases, delay in filling up the posts occurs as the persons selected do not accept the appointment. In regard to existing vacancies, officiating arrangements are invariably made so that-the work of.. these enterprises does not suffer.

tPreviously Unstarred Question 1491 transferred from the 9th March, 1987.